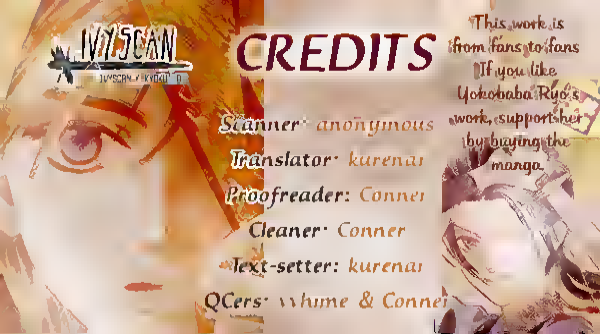
IVISCAN
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This work is from fans to fans. If you like Yokobaba Ryo's work, support her by buying the manga.

FROM THE MANGAKA WHO MADE HER DEBUT WITH A SENSATIONAL, WINNING STORY!
WHO IS THE REAL KING? A STORY OF DECEPTION VERSUS TRUST.
COLORED SPLASH
44-PAGE
ONE-SHOT
The coldly gleaming crimson sword will protect the life of a prince on the run...
THE PRINCE
OUJI
&
TO
KEN
THE SWORD
横馬場リョウ
YOKOBABA RYO

KILL ANJ!
HE IS NO LONGER OUR BROTHER!
HE IS AFTER THE THRONE! A USURPER!
I H..VE ALWAYS WONDERED...
YOUR NIGH-NESS!
YOU MUST ESCAPE AT ONCE!
WHO AM I IN THIS WORLD?
WHAT SHOULD I LIVE FOR?

flap
flap
WHOM SHOULD I DIE FOR?

tread
tread
clop clop clop
LOWER THE LITTER. LET US REST AWHILE.
peep
HIS HIGHNESS MUST BE TIRED AS WELL.
YES, LORD LAKAN.
...THE SUN HAS RISEN.
clink

PREPARE TO DIE!
!
UGH!
sfx: clang
sfx: fwap

ARGHHH!
COME ON!
GIVE ME ALL YOU'VE GOT!!
sfx: swoosh
!

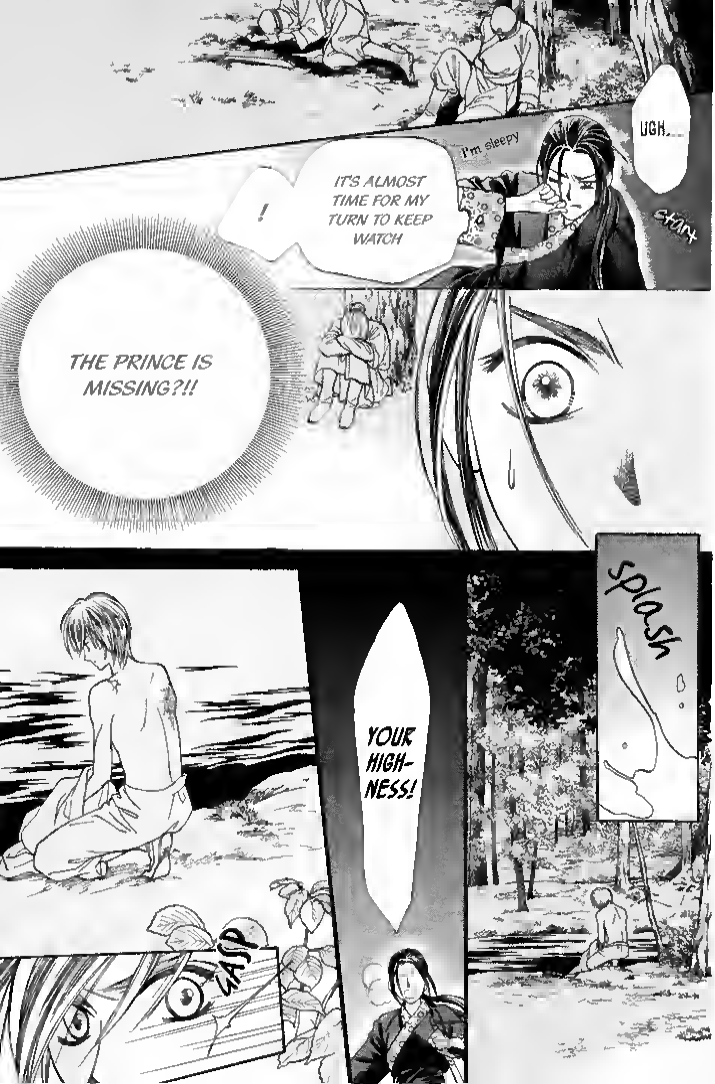
twirl
sfx: thud

WELL DONE, CHEN!
YOU PROTECTED US!
IT WAS NOTHING.
I HAVE BEEN PREPARED FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ASSASSIN POSING AS A GUARD, SO I'VE BEEN ON THE ALERT FOR ANY SIGN OF MOVEMENT.
shwoothe
CHEN LIAM...
JUST WHAT YOU'D EXPECT FROM THE WINNER OF THE FENCING TOURNAMENT AT THE CAPITAL LAST YEAR...
STILL, HAVING TO FACE SOMETHING LIKE THIS SO SOON AFTER BEING HIRED... TALK ABOUT UNLUCKY.
Beautiful but fearsome.
IS YOUR HIGHNESS UNHURT?
fwp
NOT A SCRATCH. YOU HAVE MY GRATITUDE.

SO HE'S .
PRINCE ANLI.
FWP
YOUR HIGH-NESS!
YOUR HIGH-NESS!
OH!
EVERYONE,
THE KINGDOM OF ARAGON IS STILL A LONG WAY FROM HERE. IN ADDITION, THERE MIGHT BE OTHER ASSASSINS PURSUING US.
THIS IS A PERILOUS JOURNEY— IT'S BEST TO BE PREPARED.

YOUR HIGHNESS,
THERE IS NO NEED FOR—
HOWEVER,
WE MUST FLEE IN ORDER TO SAVE THE PEOPLE FROM THE TYRANNY OF MY BROTHER, KING HWAN. I WILL MAKE A FLEA TO MY UNCLE, KING SHANA OF ARAGON, TO ASSIST US IN OVERTHROWING HWAN!
BEAR WITH THIS FOR THE SAKE OF THE KINGDOM.
smile
SO YOUR NAME IS CHEN?
I'LL BE RELYING ON YOU.

He's rather pleasant...
ALL THIS TIME...
IT'S TRUE THEY DON'T SHARE A MOTHER BUT THE PRINCE SEEMS TO BE THE POLAR OPPOSITE OF THAT MAD KING WITH A LOVE FOR EXECUTIONS
PRINCE ANLI IS LIKELY TO BE POPULAR WITH THE PEOPLE.
HE IS THE ONE...
I'VE BEEN SEEKING SOMEONE FOR WHOM I WOULD LEAVE MY HOMELAND..
TO PROTECT WITH ALL THE STRENGTH OF MY SWORD..
PERHAPS.


UGH...
I'm sleepy
SIGH
IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR MY TURN TO KEEP WATCH
!
THE PRINCE IS MISSING?!!
splash
YOUR HIGH-NESS!
GASP

GASP
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND HOW DANGEROUS IT IS FOR YOU TO BE OUT HERE ALONE?!
HEY!
Whoa!
A guard is still a guard, even when he's sleeping.
I'M SORRY...
PLEASE DON'T LET THE OTHERS KNOW ABOUT THIS...
EH?
WHAT DEEP SCARS...
...CHEN.
WAIT!
THAT'S... I SUPPOSE IT'S EMBARRASSING.
For a prince...
YES ...
It is.
DUNG...?
I ACCIDENTALLY ...
FELL ASLEEP ON A PILE OF DUNG...
It got all over me.

THAT'S AN ORDER.
NOT A WORD.
stk tug
GOT IT?
LET'S HEAD BACK BEFORE THEY FIND OUT.

THE COUNTLESS SCARS ON HIS BODY.
LOOKED AS THOUGH THEY HAD BEEN INFLICTED BY BLADES OR ARROWS
THAT'S NOT IT!
Hush
MY EAR IS RINGING.
WITH A YOUNG MAN'S VOICE, PITCHED NEITHER LOW NOR HIGH
I WONDER...
HOW BADLY DO THEY WANT HIS LIFE?
UGH...

CAMPING OUT IS BAD FOR MY BACK...
Ugh.
LORD LAKAN...
HMM?
HAS HIS HIGHNESS... ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT, EVEN AT THE ROYAL COURT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
ER...
HE'S UNIQUE, I SUPPOSE... AND RATHER ENIGMATIC...
A VERY INTRIGUING PERSON.
...
HE IS MOST PERCEPTIVE. HE UNDERSTANDS HIS ROLE PERFECTLY.
SPEAKING AS AN OLD MAN,
THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I FEEL SORRY FOR HIM... TO THE EXTENT THAT IF I COULD TAKE HIS PLACE, I WOULD.

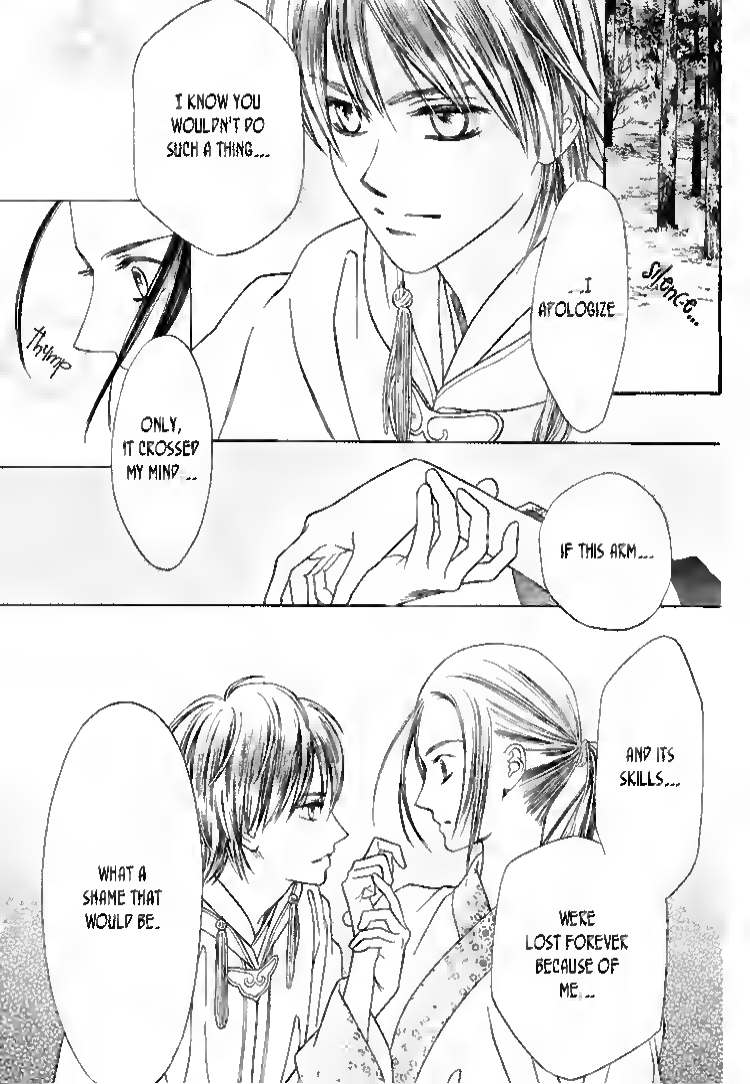
pull
IS HIS WILLPOWER.
flap flap
sfx: zing zing
...
A GREAT FATE AWAITS HIM.
BUT,
HE DOESN'T FIGHT IT OR RUN AWAY FROM IT. DESPITE THAT THIN BODY OF HIS
HE ACCEPTS IT WHOLEHEARTEDLY
THAT, I SUPPOSE,

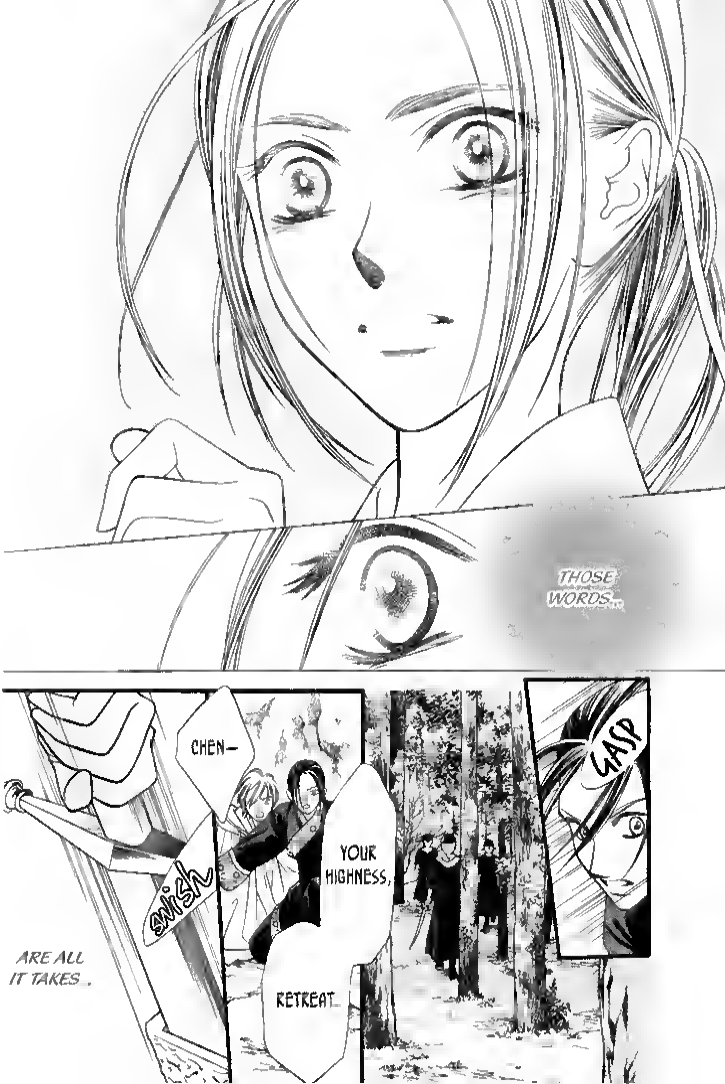
TO THE FOREST!
ARGH!
YOUR HIGHNESS!
UGH!
sfx: zing zing zing
AFTER THEM!

six: dash dash dash
KILL THE PRINCE!!
huff
huff
huff
huff
IS YOUR HIGHNESS ALL RIGHT?!
YES ...
LET'S TAKE A REST HERE FOR THE TIME BEING. THAT'S OUR BEST OPTION...
huff

FORGIVE ME...
FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO SAVE LORD LAKAN...
...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO FEEL RESPONSIBLE. I'M SURE LAKAN HAD BEEN PREPARED FOR THIS.
UNDER THE CIRCUM-STANCES...
I WOULDN'T HAVE BLAMED YOU IF YOU HAD LEFT ME AND RUN AWAY.
WHAT DO YOU TAKE ME FOR?!

I WOULD NEVER TURN MY BACK ON MY MASTER, NOT WHEN HE BELIEVES IN MY STRENGTH AND ENTRUSTS ME WITH HIS LIFE!
I CAN'T..
AND CHOOSE MY LIFE..
I CAN'T FORSAKE MY DUTY.
OVER HIS!
DID YOU THINK I WAS THE KIND OF PERSON WHO COULD DO SUCH A THING?!
SHH!
!
THEY'LL FIND US.


I KNOW YOU WOULDN'T DO SUCH A THING...
...I APOLOGIZE
Silence...
Thump
ONLY, IT CROSSED MY MIND?...
IF THIS ARM...
AND ITS SKILLS...
WHAT A SHAME THAT WOULD BE.
WERE LOST FOREVER BECAUSE OF ME...


THOSE WORDS...
GASP
CHEN—
YOUR HIGHNESS,
swish
RETREAT.
ARE ALL IT TAKES.

I WILL PROTECT YOU,
EVEN IF IT COSTS MY LIFE.
...TO GIVE ME STRENGTH.
ARGH!
ATTACK!

sfx: slash
DON'T THINK...
THIS IS ENOUGH TO KILL ME!
sfx: clang
sfx: slash
CHEN!
NO—!!

YOUR HIGHNESS!
RUN! HURRY!!
sfx: gasp
YOUR HEAD IS MINE!
sfx: wham
YOUR HIGHNESS!

sfx: swish
sfx: thup
ARGHH!
sfx: stab
UGH...
thud

I'M GLAD YOU'RE SAFE...
YOU ARE... QUITE STRONG.
HUFF
YOUR HIGHNESS...
CHEN!
six: fall
CHEN, I-

thud
UGH...
CHEH!
I'LL TAKE YOU SOMEWHERE SAFE TO GET TREAT—
NO!
I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF! YOU MUST RUN AS FAR AS YOU CAN BEFORE MORE ASSASSINS COME AFTER YOU!!
WH—
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?! YOU'RE INJURED! YOU CAN'T EVEN WALK ON YOUR OWN!
TAKE MY H—
NO!
NOW THAT I'M INJURED, I CAN NO LONGER PROTECT YOU!! PLEASE, JUST LEAVE ME HERE!

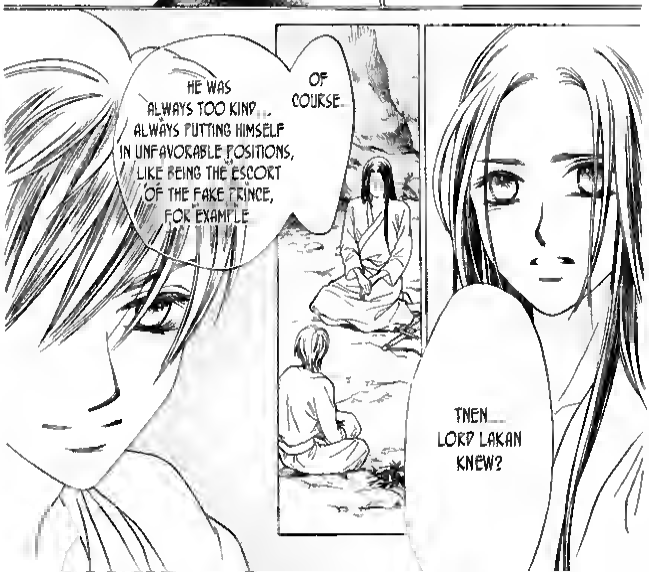
I...
I DON'T WANT TO BE THE ONE...
TO PUT YOU IN DANGER!
I WON'T...
NO...
PLOP

plop
I AM NOT THE PRINCE!
YOU'RE MAKING A MISTAKE.
I'M JUST A STAND-IN!
I'M NOT WORTH YOUR LIFE!
plop
plop

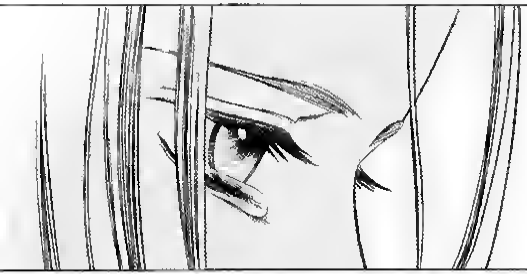
A STAND-IN...
I WAS AN ORPHAN...
rap
shk-zsch
rap
WHO HAPPENED TO LOOK LIKE HIS HIGHNESS PRINCE ANLI.
I'VE BEEN RAISED IN THE PALACE AS HIS HIGHNESS'S BODY DOUBLE SINCE I WAS SIX.

I STAYED CLOSE TO THE PRINCE'S SIDE.
I LEARNED HIS WALK, HIS HABITS... EVERYTHING. IT'S ALL SECOND NATURE TO ME NOW.
I ALSO LEARNED HOW TO DEFEND MYSELF AND THE BEST METHODS TO USE IN CASE OF AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT.
TO KING HWAN, PRINCE ANJI MUST BE QUITE A THORN IN HIS SIDE.
I SERVED MY PURPOSE COUNTLESS TIMES.
THE PRINCE HAS BEEN SHOT!!
QUICKLY! GET THE PHYSICIAN!
WHAT ARE YOU SO AGITATED ABOUT, LAKAN?

THAT'S ONLY THE PRINCE'S DOUBLE.
THAT IS HIS DUTY.
AND IN THIS MISSION ... MY ROLE WAS TO DISTRACT THE KING LONG ENOUGH FOR THE PRINCE TO ESCAPE SAFELY.
THAT INJURY WON'T KILL HIM
AND REGARDLESS,


OF COURSE...
HE WAS ALWAYS TOO KIND... ALWAYS PUTTING HIMSELF IN UNFAVORABLE POSITIONS, LIKE BEING THE ESCORT OF THE FAKE PRINCE, FOR EXAMPLE
THEN... LORD LAKAN KNEW?

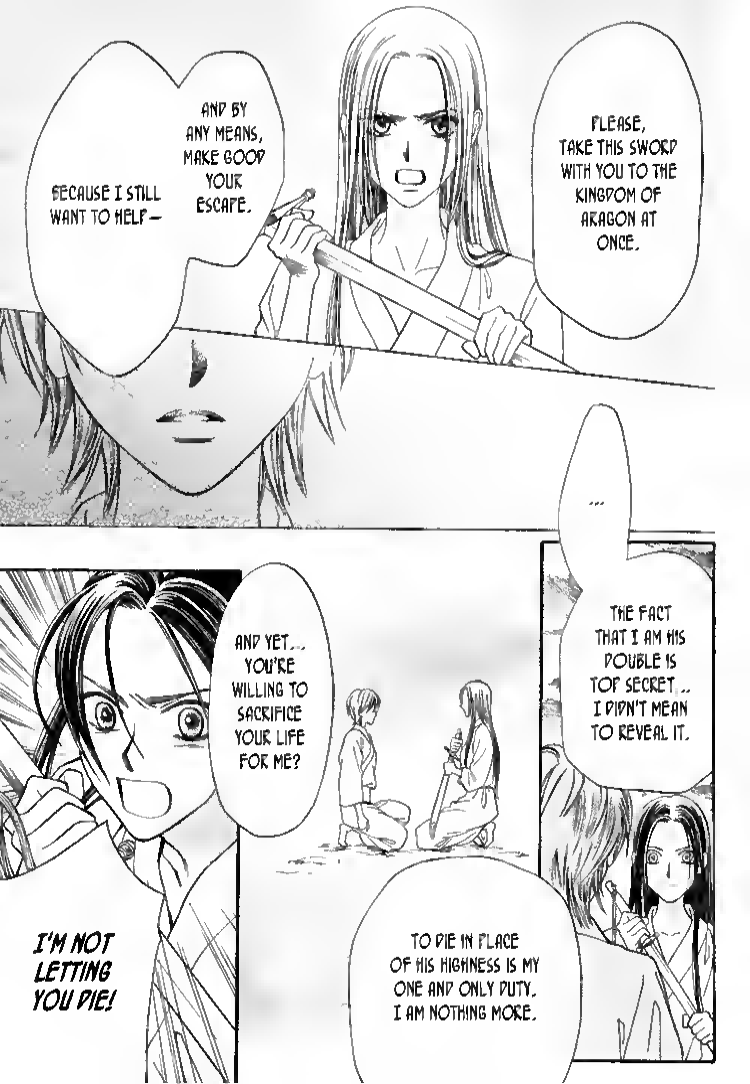
IVYSCAN
IVYSCAN KAKYOKU GRP

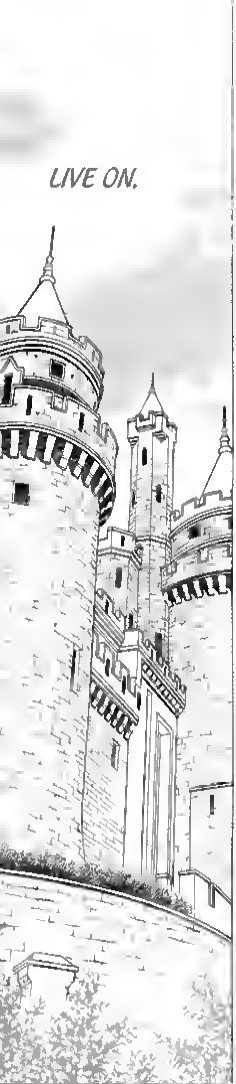


SUCH PAIN...

HOW MUCH OF IT HAS HE HAD TO PUT UP WITH?
YOU'RE HIS SHIELD, HIS PROTECTOR.
BUT...
YOUR EXISTENCE ...
IS INDISPENSABLE TO HIS HIGHNESS.

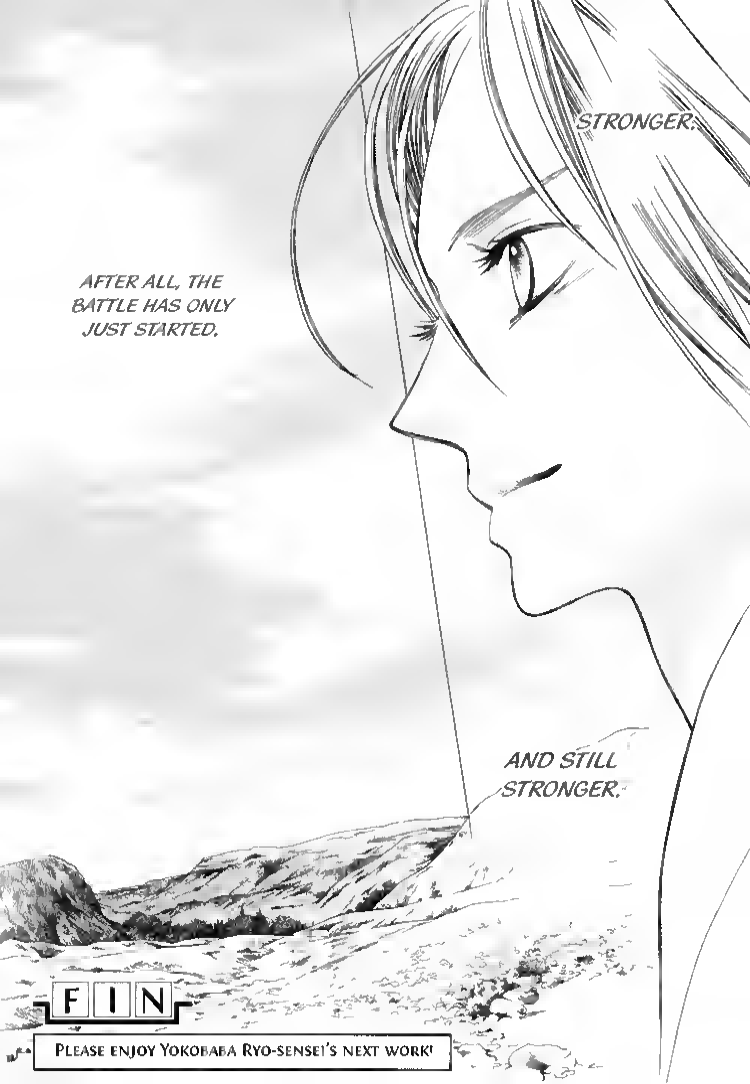
...I AM YOUR SWORD.
I WILL FIGHT FOR YOU.


PLEASE, TAKE THIS SWORD WITH YOU TO THE KINGDOM OF ARAGON AT ONCE.
AND BY ANY MEANS, MAKE GOOD YOUR ESCAPE.
BECAUSE I STILL WANT TO HELP—
...
THE FACT THAT I AM HIS DOUBLE IS TOP SECRET... I DIDN'T MEAN TO REVEAL IT.
AND YET... YOU'RE WILLING TO SACRIFICE YOUR LIFE FOR ME?
TO DIE IN PLACE OF HIS HIGHNESS IS MY ONE AND ONLY DUTY. I AM NOTHING MORE.
I'M NOT LETTING YOU DIE!



PLEASE...

WHO WISHES FOR YOU TO LIVE ON...
LIVE.
BECAUSE OF THAT, I WILL BE STRONG.
FROM THE BOTTOM OF HER HEART.
THERE IS SOMEONE...
IN THIS WORLD...


STRONGER.
AFTER ALL, THE BATTLE HAS ONLY JUST STARTED.
AND STILL STRONGER.
FIN
PLEASE ENJOY YOKOBABA RYO-SENSEI'S NEXT WORK!